

REMARKSAllowed Claims

Applicants greatly appreciate the indication in the October 20, 2004, Notice of Allowance that claims 1-20 are allowed.

Claim Status

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 5, 12, 16-20 are amended in an editorial manner and not in response to the art or any formal rejection. Some of these amendments even further broaden the scope of the claims. No forfeiture of equivalents is intended.

Claims 21-27 are newly presented. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographic errors and to include corresponding patent numbers.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is provided herewith. Consideration of the information disclosed therein is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Nevertheless, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-469-4685 if any questions arise.

Date: January 14, 2005

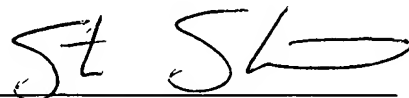
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Respectfully submitted,  
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